

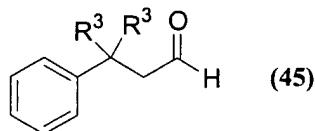
in case of the event that no generic claims are allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to examine claims 1-15.

* * *

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the oxidant in step (c) is oxalyl chloride, a tertiary amine and DMSO.
10. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the tertiary amine is DBU or di-*iso*-propylethyl amine.
11. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the crown ether in step (b) is 18-crown-6.
12. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the base in step (b) is potassium hexamethyldisilazane.
13. A process according to Claim 8 wherein R⁶ is a trialkylsilylethoxycarbonyl group.
14. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the aldehyde in step (h) is a 3-phenylpropionaldehyde (45) derivative optionally substituted at the 3-position with one or two R³ substituents.

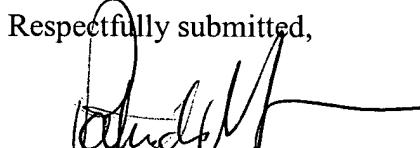


15. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the aldehyde in step (h) is 3-phenylpropionaldehyde.

* * *

Early action on the merits of this case is courteously solicited. Early action toward this end is courteously solicited. *The Examiner is kindly encouraged to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite any detail of the prosecution.* The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in connection herewith to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 11, 2003

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